

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL:(201) 547-5200
FAX:(201) 547-4288

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2008

Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-369-0699

Mayor Healy to be Joined by State, County & Federal Officials to Denounce Closing of Lafayette Post Office ***Officials & Community Leaders want Post Office to Return to Lafayette Neighborhood***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy was joined today by the 31st District Representatives, County Freeholders, members of the Municipal Council, and local community leaders to express their outrage that the U.S. Postal Service has decided to permanently close the General Lafayette Station.

“The Post Office has indicated they plan to close the Lafayette Post Office, which we strongly disagree with,” Mayor Healy said, at a press conference held at the Main Branch of the Post Office on Montgomery Street. “Thousands of Jersey City residents are serviced by this facility everyday and the Post Office cannot just abandon this community.”

On Monday, Mayor Healy received a letter from Jersey City Post Master Jeff Gannon indicating a month-long analysis conducted by the Post Office has found that the U.S. Post Office should “move forward with the formal process to discontinue service at the General Lafayette Station.”

In addition to city, state and county officials, federal representatives who represent Jersey City have been working closely with the Mayor’s Office to bring the Post Office back to Lafayette.

U.S. Rep. Steve Rothman, who sent an aide to today’s press conference, said he stands with the Mayor and city officials in their effort to keep the General Lafayette Station open.

“The Post Master, in trying to close this office, argues that there are others nearby. Yet, how are our seniors going to get to those Post Offices with bus service cut backs?” Rothman asked. “Further, why should the people of Greenville and Lafayette have the indignity of constantly seeing things taken from them with the simple explanation - well, you can go to another community? They shouldn’t. That’s why I am proud to stand with Mayor Healy in this fight to save vital services for all of Jersey City’s communities.”

(more)

U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, who also sent an aide to today's press conference, has been actively involved in efforts at the federal level to stop this closure.

"The Postal Service closed the Lafayette Post Office with little or no warning and no permanent solution to replace the services it provides," said **Sen. Lautenberg**. "The closure of this post office would create a tremendous hardship for Jersey City residents who cannot travel to other facilities. It is vital the Lafayette Post Office remain open."

The General Lafayette Station Post Office was originally closed without notice in late December, with postal officials citing a broken security window. **Mayor Healy** and other elected officials met with the Jersey City Post Master in January and negotiated the operation of Mobile Mail Unit for the residents while the Post Office conducted its study of the facility. The Mobile Mail Unit is in the Lafayette Community four days a week.

"It is important that we let our voices be heard that Jersey City will not stand for these kinds of cuts to vital services that our residents rely on," **Mayor Healy** said. "Every community deserves a post office."

Mayor Healy said he will urge the Post Master to continue to provide the Mobile Mail Unit to the Lafayette community while he works with our federal representatives to halt any closure of the General Lafayette Station Post Office.

In addition to the Post Office, the Mayor has been a vocal advocate for the continuation of bus service to the Greenville and Lafayette communities. His efforts have resulted in the continuation of the No. 4 and the No. 99 bus lines, as well as the extension of the No. 123 bus in the Heights.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.

#